

Message Text

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ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EB-07 NRC-05 NSAE-00 TRSE-00

EUR-12 ERDA-05 ISO-00 MC-02 /032 R

DRAFTED BY COM/OEA/CGSEASWORD/EPWALINSKY:BAW

APPROVED BY EB/ITP/ EWT:RWPRACHT

JFDYTRT:CG&PM DIV.OEA

RPE

EUR/EE - S.E. STEINER

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R 290138Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BERN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 021993

EXCON

E.O. 11652:XGDS-1

TAGS:ESTC, COCOM, GW, UR

SUBJECT: REPORTED WEST GERMAN EXPORT AUTHORIZATION OF IL-
1091 MACHINE TOOLS TO USSR

1) COMMERCE HAS HEARD THROUGH COMMERCIAL SOURCES THAT THE
GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAS GRANTED EXPORT PERMISSION TO HILLE-
HENSCHEL TO EXPORT SOME 20-ODD IL-1091 MACHINING CENTERS
EQUIPPED WITH COMPUTER NUMERICAL CONTROL (CNC) UNITS TO A
SOVIET COMPUTER PLANT AT MINSK. THE GERMAN EQUIPMENT
HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS HILLE-HENSCHEL MODEL-100 THREE AXIS
CONTOURING VERTICAL MACHINING CENTERS INCORPORATING SIEMENS
550 C CNC UNITS. THE CNC NATURE OF THE CONTROL UNITS
WOULD ALONE EMBARGO THE MACHINE TOOL/CNC SYSTEM UNDER IL-
1091. THE THREE AXIS FEATURE OF THE MACHINE TOOL, WHOSE
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ACCURACY IS REPORTED TO BE 0.0002 INCHES/600 MM, WOULD ALSO

BRING THEM UNDER IL-1091 COVERAGE. (FYI: COMMERCE HAS ALSO HEARD THAT ANOTHER GERMAN FIRM IS TO SUPPLY SOME 700,000 DOLLARS WORTH OF CUTTING TOOLS FOR USE WITH THE HILLE-HENSCHEL SYSTEMS. END FYI)

2) THIS REPORT WAS DISCUSSED BILATERALLY IN PARIS ON NOVEMBER 13, 1975 BETWEEN THE US AND GERMAN COCOM DELEGATES WITH THE LATTER UNDERTAKING TO QUERY HIS AUTHORITIES RE THE MATTER. THE US DELEGATE FOLLOWED UP THE

NOVEMBER DISCUSSION WITH A LETTER IN MID-DECEMBER, AND BY TWO ADDITIONAL APPROACHES ON JANUARY 13, 1976 AND AGAIN ON JANUARY 22, 1976. ON EACH FOLLOW-UP OCCASION, THE GERMAN DELEGATE REPLIED THAT HE WAS WAITING FOR INFORMATION FROM HIS AUTHORITIES.

3) LICENSING ACTION ON A US CASE INVOLVING SOME FIVE MACHINE TOOL CENTERS COMPARABLE TO THE HILLE-HENSCHEL SYSTEMS, WORTH 2 MILLION DOLLARS, RESTS TO SOME EXTENT ON THE FOREIGN AVAILABILITY FACTOR AND ON WHATEVER ACTION THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT TAKES ON THE REPORTED HILLE-HENSCHEL TRANSACTION. THEREFORE, THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO APPROACH THE APPROPRIATE GERMAN EXPORT LICENSING AUTHORITIES AND ASCERTAIN WHETHER, IN FACT, THE REPORTED HILLE-HENSCHEL TRANSACTION HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED, AND IF DELIVERY HAS BEEN MADE. IF DELIVERY HAS BEEN MADE, THE EMBASSY SHOULD ENQUIRE WHY THE GERMANS DID NOT BRING THE CASE INTO COCOM; IF DELIVERY IS CONTEMPLATED, THE EMBASSY SHOULD ASK THE GERMANS WHETHER THEY INTEND TO SUBMIT THE TRANSACTION TO COCOM, AND IF NOT, WHY NOT.

4) COMMERCE WOULD APPRECIATE AN ANSWER TO THESE QUESTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

5) USDEL MAY INFORM GERMAN DEL WE ARE MAKING THIS APPROACH IN VIEW OF THE URGENCY OF THIS MATTER. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STRATEGIC TRADE CONTROLS, EXPORT LICENSES, TOOLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE021993
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BAW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760034-0351
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976018/aaaaagwo.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN COME
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED WEST GERMAN EXPORT AUTHORIZATION OF IL- 1091 MACHINE TOOLS TO USSR
TAGS: ESTC, GE, UR, COCOM
To: BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006